

1 to probate. He is at power to open estates with or
2 without wills. At times his deputies must go out and hunt
3 up witnesses or visit witnesses who are unable to come to
4 his office, that is, witnesses on wills.

5 His job goes to the substance of the case and
6 not merely to the form. He has an obligation to see to
7 it that estates are processed in good order. By way of
8 collection of taxes, the office of register of wills of
9 Baltimore City, it is contemplated for this year and
10 next year, will collect approximately five million dollars
11 in taxes.

12 He publishes notices, he keeps track of debts that
13 are put on file with respect to cases and estates. He
14 keeps records and files on the estates of minors and not
15 only does he do that, but he sees to it that the money is
16 kept in good safe places, such as Federally insured
17 building associations and banks.

18 He handles estates in cooperation with foreign
19 jurisdictions.

20 Ladies and gentlemen, this office is enshrined
21 in the present Constitution in Section 41 of Article 4, so